

**Amendment to the claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**In the Claims:**

Claims 1-8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) The expression cassette of claim ~~72 or claim 73, wherein the 68 or claim 69, further comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding [[the]] an HIV polymerase polypeptide is modified by deletions of coding regions encoding with coding regions~~ for reverse transcriptase and integrase deleted.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) The expression cassette of claim 68 or claim 69, wherein said polynucleotide sequence encodes a polypeptide comprising T-helper cell and CTL epitopes.

Claims 11-23 (Canceled).

Claim 24 (Previously Presented) A recombinant expression system for use in a selected host cell, comprising the expression cassette of claim 68 or claim 69 and wherein said polynucleotide sequence is operably linked to control elements compatible with expression in the selected host cell.

Claim 25 (Original) The recombinant expression system of claim 24, wherein said control elements are selected from the group consisting of a transcription promoter, a transcription enhancer element, a transcription termination signal, polyadenylation sequences, sequences for optimization of initiation of translation, and translation termination sequences.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented) The recombinant expression system of claim 25, wherein said transcription promoter is selected from the group consisting of CMV, CMV+intron A, SV40, RSV, HIV-Ltr, MMLV-Ltr, and metallothionein.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented) A cell comprising the expression cassette of claim 68 or claim 69 and wherein said polynucleotide sequence is operably linked to control elements compatible with expression in the selected cell.

Claim 28 (Original) The cell of claim 27, wherein the cell is a mammalian cell.

Claim 29 (Original) The cell of claim 28, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of BHK, VERO, HT1080, 293, RD, COS-7, and CHO cells.

Claim 30 (Original) The cell of claim 29, wherein said cell is a CHO cell.

Claim 31 (Original) The cell of claim 27, wherein the cell is an insect cell.

Claim 32 (Original) The cell of claim 31, wherein the cell is either *Trichoplusia ni* (Tn5) or SF9 insect cells.

Claim 33 (Original) The cell of claim 27, wherein the cell is a bacterial cell.

Claim 34 (Original) The cell of claim 27, wherein the cell is a yeast cell.

Claim 35 (Original) The cell of claim 27, wherein the cell is a plant cell.

Claim 36 (Original) The cell of claim 27, wherein the cell is an antigen presenting cell.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented) The cell of claim 36, wherein the antigen presenting cell is a lymphoid cell its selected from the group consisting of macrophage, monocytes, dendritic cells, B-cells, T-cells, stem cells, and progenitor cells thereof.

Claim 38 (Original) The cell of claim 27, wherein the cell is a primary cell.

Claim 39 (Original) The cell of claim 27, wherein the cell is an immortalized cell.

Claim 40 (Original) The cell of claim 27, wherein the cell is a tumor-derived cell.

Claim 41 (Canceled).

Claim 42 (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 74, further comprising a Gag polypeptide.

Claim 43 (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 74, further comprising an adjuvant.

Claims 44-48 (Canceled).

Claim 49 (Previously Presented) A method of generating an immune response in a subject, comprising, introducing the composition of claim 74 into said subject under conditions that are compatible with expression of said expression cassette in said subject.

Claim 50 (Original) The method of claim 49, wherein said expression cassette is introduced using a gene delivery vector.

Claim 51 (Original) The method of claim 50, wherein the gene delivery vector is a non-viral vector.

Claim 52 (Original) The method of claim 50, wherein said gene delivery vector is a viral vector.

Claim 53 (Original) The method of claim 52, wherein said gene delivery vector is a Sindbis virus derived vector.

Claim 54 (Original) The method of claim 52, wherein said gene delivery vector is a retroviral vector.

Claim 55 (Original) The method of claim 52, wherein said gene delivery vector is a lentiviral vector.

Claim 56 (Original) The method of claim 49, wherein said composition delivered using a particulate carrier.

Claim 57 (Original) The method of claim 49, wherein said composition is coated on a gold or tungsten particle and said coated particle is delivered to said subject using a gene gun.

Claim 58 (Original) The method of claim 49, wherein said composition is encapsulated in a liposome preparation.

Claim 59 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein said subject is a mammal.

Claim 60 (Original) The method of claim 59, wherein said mammal is a human.

Claims 61-62 (Canceled).

Claim 63 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, where the method further comprises administration of an HIV polypeptide.

Claim 64 (Original) The method of claim 63, wherein administration of the polypeptide to the subject is carried out before introducing said expression cassette.

Claim 65 (Original) The method of claim 63, wherein administration of the polypeptide to the subject is carried out concurrently with introducing said expression cassette.

Claim 66 (Original) The method of claim 63, wherein administration of the polypeptide to the subject is carried out after introducing said expression cassette.

Claim 67 (Canceled).

Claim 68 (Previously Presented) An expression cassette comprising the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

Claim 69 (Previously Presented) An expression cassette comprising the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

Claim 70 (Original) The expression cassette of claim 68, further comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an HIV protease polypeptide.

Claim 71 (Original) The expression cassette of claim 69, further comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an HIV protease polypeptide.

Claim 72 (Original) The expression cassette of claim 68, further comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an HIV polymerase polypeptide.

Claim 73 (Original) The expression cassette of claim 69, further comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an HIV polymerase polypeptide.

Claim 74 (Previously Presented) A composition for generating an immunological response in a mammal comprising the expression cassette of claim 68 or claim 69.

Claim 75 (Previously Presented) A method of generating an immune response in a mammal, the method comprising the step of intramuscularly administering the expression cassette of claim 68 or claim 69 to said mammal.